

ICN Insider



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ICN's Connection to the Redistricting Plan

In early April, ICN's state-wide fiber-optic Network was used as a tremendous asset in receiving public comments for the proposed Congressional and Legislative Redistricting Plan submitted by the Legislative Services Agency.

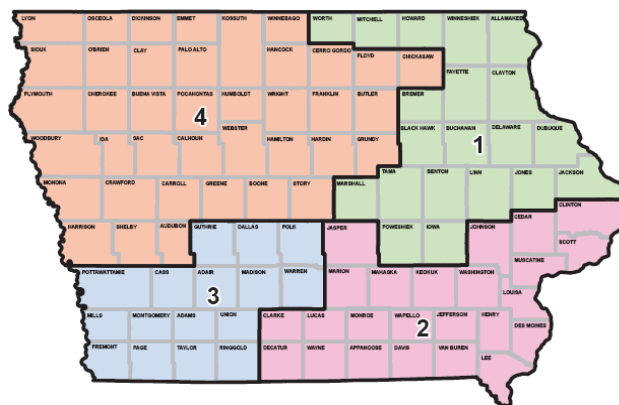
The Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission held two in-person public hearings and two public hearings using ICN's video conferencing technology. The two virtual hearings originated (main location) at the Council Bluffs Public Library in Council Bluffs and Kirkwood Community College in Cedar Rapids.

interactive (remote) sites, which consisted of locations in Mason City, Sioux City, Spencer, Dubuque, Ottumwa, and Waterloo.

Using ICN's infrastructure allowed the Temporary Redistricting Advisory Commission to reach more Iowans to gain input from citizens and representatives of political

subdivisions and organizations.

The proposed maps delivered to the Legislature shrunk the state into four congressional districts, down from the current five. The redistricting plan was approved by both the House and Senate and was signed by Governor Branstad on Tuesday, April 19.



Each public hearing incorporated three

Iowa educators looking for an ICN high school course for their students can post or view "want ads" at

IowaLearningOnline.org.



A Call for Advisory Group Involvement

Have you attended a recent Educational Telecommunications Council (ETC), Regional Telecommunication Council (RTC), and/or Administrative Telecommunications Advisory Council (ATAC) meeting? If so, you may notice that some meetings don't have the proper participation needed to vote or conduct normal

business. The participation in these meetings is important to provide insight and guidance into the specific needs to authorized user groups.

The Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC) relies on the input provided by these advisory groups that was established by Iowa Code 8D. Each advisory group has a duty

to Iowans to help recommend long-range plans for enhancements needed for the distance learning video application.

The next time you hear about an upcoming ETC, RTC and/or ATAC meeting, be sure to attend to provide your input. For additional information visit the ITTC's advisory groups webpage.

**Message from
Dave Lingren,
ICN's Executive
Director**

The transfer of a fully operational publicly owned business unit that serves as Iowa's communications backbone providing critical elements of government, education, health care and public safety to a private owner / lessee is a complicated endeavor. Complying with the law as outlined in House File 45 – Section 8 will require the full and complete participation and cooperation of numerous parties in order to meet the requirements of the timeline defined in the legislation.

Consolidation Changes Occurring at ICN

As of April 1, there have been various changes occurring within the ICN.

One of the department changes includes the merger of the Office of the Deputy Director and the Service Delivery Department. This change has created a new stronger division called Business and Governmental Services, which is being lead by Joseph Cassis as Director

and Phil Groner as Manager of Business Services.

ICN recently hired Will Walling as the Director of its Network Operations and Engineering Division. Various responsibilities include managing the operations of the Network; overseeing the engineering ordering process, Network design, and Network planning. Dave Marley will continue

to be a valuable asset for ICN as the Manager of Network Operations and Engineering.

The previous Office of the Chief Financial Officer has changed into the Finance Division, which consolidates the earlier formation to collaborate the functions of billing, payables, contracting, and warehouse duties. Deb Evans will continue to be the Finance Manager.

ICN's Phone System Replacement Project

During the last year, ICN has been actively migrating its previous phone platform to the Siemens HiPath 4000 phone system.

To date, ICN has migrated 6,720 phones leaving approximately 1,000 phones, and the relocation of 10 IPDA's (IP Distributed Architecture) to remote Capitol Complex offices. Prior to the upgrade, all phones were dependant on ICN's switch room located in the Lucas State Office Building. The new distribution of the phone system reduces the dependency of ICN's switch room, and allows for phone services to continue in the event of a catastrophic loss to ICN's switch room.

When customers transition to the Siemens platform, one of the first few

features noticed is a new phone and caller-id. ICN wanted to be able to provide caller-id, since users requested to see incoming phone numbers. Users will also notice a new voicemail platform that allows for more specific defined greetings.



ICN's goal is to provide a smooth transition for customers. A team was developed to identify customer impact, large usage timeframes, available resources (equipment and staff), and preparation progress.

The first building to transition was the Grimes State Office Building in

March 2010, and since then there has been steady progress with Iowa Workforce Development, Department of Public Safety, Capitol, Judicial, and Wallace Buildings. The last building to transition over will be the Hoover State Office Building.

The phone replacement project has been funded with infrastructure appropriations, due to the projects direct impact and enhancements on the Capitol Complex.

There were many factors when determining why a phone platform migration was needed. The new platform will assist in reducing operating costs, help with redundancy on the Capitol Complex, and aid in relieving the complexity of finding replacement parts by reducing the different models of phones distributed on the Capitol Complex.

A Summary of the 2011 Legislative Session

The following are the legislative bills that directly impact the ICN. These bills were passed during the 2011 legislative session and were signed by the Governor. A more detailed update will be available shortly at the close of the 2011 Legislative Session on ICN's website on the [Stakeholders](#) webpage.

Request for Proposal (RFP) to Sell or Lease the ICN – [House File 45](#) requires the Iowa Telecommunications and Technology Commission (ITTC) to develop, issue, and implement a RFP process to sell or lease the ICN during Fiscal Year 2012. ICN staff members

have begun to develop the RFP process.

Waiving the Spending Authorization Limitation for ICN's Broadband Technology Opportunities Program Project – [Senate File 209](#) allows the ITTC to enter into contracts exceeding the approximate \$2.0 million statutory limitation for contracts associated with this federally funded project, which will provide increased capacity enabling more robust Internet applications.

Independent colleges and universities as well as private schools excused from waiver process – [House File 254](#)

removes this requirement for these specific certified users when utilizing services from other providers.

House File 648 includes an equipment appropriation to the ITTC of \$2.2 million to replace Capitol Complex phone system and deploy Ethernet switches. In addition it includes an appropriation of \$2.7 million to the Department of Education to fund **maintenance and lease** costs for ICN connections to K-12 schools, libraries and Area Education Agencies. *As of Friday, April 29, the bill including these appropriations continues to be discussed.*

The ICN, a state agency, is the country's premier fiber-optic Network, committed to continued enhancement of distance learning and providing Iowans with convenient, equal access to education, government, and healthcare.

Employee Spotlight: Paul Damge

Paul Damge is a Purchasing Agent for ICN. He has worked for the ICN for 10 years, since March of 2001. Paul is in charge of managing the ICN warehouse. This includes daily operations such as maintaining the accounts for the assets located in the warehouse as well as purchasing, shipping, receiving, and counting inventory. Paul's job requires knowledge of parts as well as RMA (Return Merchandise Authorization), which means returning items

back for repair. Though Paul mostly works internal with customers, at some point Paul has the opportunity to work with everyone. Paul's job requires problem solving and leads him to interact with different people. He is on-call 24/7, and **has to be prepared provided an issue arises in the field.** Paul is currently preparing for the summer, which due to major projects is typically the busiest time of year.

Paul spends the majority of his time with his family

including four daughters, ages 9, 5, and 3 year-old twins. He enjoys exercising, running, deer hunting and has been playing Rugby since 1986.

During his employment at the ICN, Paul remembers having to **conduct full inventory** on ICN's generators and power equipment during the Hurricane Katrina disaster. It was essential that this equipment be ready to provide assistance when needed.



*Do you have new staff,
administrators, or
friends who might be
interested in receiving
this newsletter? Please
pass it on and have
them contact
lori.larsen@iowa.gov to
be placed on the
distribution list.*

*Remember to visit ICN's
website at
www.icn.state.ia.us
to keep updated on all ICN
related news.*



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Upcoming Video Session for Students and Educator through Iowa Public Television's Connections

Spies Undercover

Tuesday, May 31; 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM and 1:00 PM - 1:50 PM
Audience: **Grades 3-6**



Unseen, unheard, and undercover, spies have existed in all countries in times of war and peace. Students will learn about some of the most well-known African American spies and some of their tricks of the trade in this session that covers topics from science to history to just plain sneakiness. A perfect way to end the school year!

Registration Deadline - Tuesday, May 24, 2011

Exciting Happenings at the Science Center of Iowa

Tuesday, May 17; Multiple Timeframes
Audience: **Grades 3-7**

You and your students will have the opportunity to learn about all the exciting happenings at the [Science Center of Iowa](#) this spring and summer. We'll talk about the Science Center of Iowa's newest traveling exhibition, Gunther von Hagens' *BODY WORLDS Vital* opening May 7! *BODY WORLDS Vital* goes beyond the models and textbooks to see what lies beneath the skin to understand the inner workings of the human body.

Registration Deadline – Friday, May 13, 2011

Money Management for Teens

Tuesday, May 10; 9:00 AM - 9:50 AM and 10:00 AM - 10:50 AM
Audience: **Grades 9-12**

Join staff from the Iowa College Access Network (ICAN) for this engaging discussion about money management skills.

We will cover topics such as educational expenses and how to manage the purchase of a vehicle. We will also talk about the importance of budgeting, student loans, credit cards, credit scores, and identity theft. Right before summer break is a great time for a review (or an introduction to these topics) for your students.

Registration Deadline – Friday, May 6, 2011



For More Information about Upcoming K-12 Connections Contact:

Marcia Wych or Abby Brown
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(800) 532-1290 or (515) 242-4181
abby@iptv.org
www.k12connections.iptv.org

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